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Talker: ABRAMS/BUNKE

1. Our view on LAOS & Cambodia

✓ -- Re Laos - need to stay in thru April as minimum

✓ -- Can ARVN really take it?

✓ -- Will cost to ARVN seriously damage residual capability, morale etc?

✓ -- Cost of Helo losses.

-- Re Cambodia -- Need to really get control of enemy & clean out base areas

? -- Can we reinforce when Laos is over?

? -- Can Air be shifted to make Cambodia more effective when Laos ends-

Chiefs -- Can we launch new attacks in tri-border area?

Got from briefing

-- Re cross border ops. At what point in our draw down will ARVN no longer be able to [illegible] conduct ops outside of SVN?

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-- Can we see point subsequent to above when ARVN can do Cmbo border without any US help except perhaps for air and [illegible] logistics air lift.

-- when do we figure that Cambodia should be able to hold its own without ARVN help? This is now time sensitive issue.

2. Troop Levels and Announcem

-- Pres is determined to draw down rapidly - Sec Def is encouraging and pressures impelling.

-- Pres was told by Laird in my presence that CMACV could support draw down to about 200,000 by Jan 72

- and to between 130 - 100,000 by Aug 72

- Sec State said & Pres was now committed to figure below 100,000 by Nov - Others to [illegible] by Jan 73 -

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-- what are best views on following?

- Type of announcement on April 5?

Example Game Plan.

-- 30,000 between 1 May and 1 July -

-- Meet with Thieu in July

Review Results.

Have Thieu state he no longer will need US ground support effective 1st of year subsequently only US air & logistical support will be necessary

Pres might reply he welcome their decision and that orderly withdrawal port facilities security etc suggests rates continue at present pace but emphasizing US forces will continue to defend themselves issue new warning to Hanoi and publish fair figure of about 200,100.

- when can we announce purely MAAG function?

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— What level of troops will constitute a MAAG ?

— Can we shift to all volunteer at that or some other point ?

— What is best planning ~~figure~~ for sortie levels for the Air & B-52s including in country based, Thai based, Carrier based

TacAir (current 14000/mo.
June 10,000

B-52 (current 1000/mo.

— What is best plan for free world forces draw down — why loose Koreans ?

When do our residual logistics dominate decisions ?

— What intel capabilities must we leave

— Helo - lift - gunship

— Transportation

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- Communications.

ARVN Modernization

# of Divisions (12)

# of RF/PF PSDF. 1.1 million of Man Force.

support 1.1 million or 80

upto 1.2 million.

# of helo lift Cos -

/ division.

# of Helo. Pilots needed & programs

Can we initiate crash training program for:

Pilots & technicians

in SVN.

Fixed wing Capability

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#s of Sqds by Types —
what will this permit by
way of mission —

Gun Ships

Artillery —

Density / regular division
" / territorial forces.

Intelligence -

- what will ARVN be able
to do & where include:

Communic
ELINT
Target Acquisition -
Exploitation · [illegible]